

The Paducah Sun.

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PADUCAH, KY., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1903.

10 CENTS PER WEEK

HUNTER WINS OUT

Gets the Congressional Nomination in the Eleventh.

Eight Hurt in a Wreck—Thanksgiving Proclamation Out Saturday.

OTHER TELEGRAPH NEWS.

HUNTER WINS.

Louisville, Ky., Oct. 29.—Dr. W. Godfrey Hunter, contestant against D. C. Edwards for the Republican nomination for congress in the eleventh district, won a victory before the state central committee last night when the committee by a vote of 8 to 5 declared that the certificate of J. Sherman Cooper, committeeman from the eleventh district, declaring D. C. Edwards for Republican nominee, is void. The committee by resolution further declared that J. Sherman Cooper is not the governing authority in the district.

EXPRESS DRIVERS OUT.

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 29.—Drivers of all St. Louis express companies to the number of 400 went on strike yesterday because the demands of the Pacific Express Company's employees for a wage increase of 10 per cent. has not been granted.

Policemen were on duty around the express company buildings at union station but there was no trouble of any kind, and no express cars were delayed as a result of the strike.

The express company officials say they have arranged to fill the strikers' places at once and no delay in the delivery and transportation of goods is anticipated.

WORLD'S FAIR LABORERS.

St. Louis, Oct. 29.—Eight hundred laborers, members of the Laborers' Protective Union of the American Federation of Labor, have quit work at the World's Fair because the men claim the Exposition company has not complied with an agreement made September 5, when the question of employing non-union laborers was settled.

TO BLOW UP RAILROAD.

Seattle, Wash., Oct. 29.—Four sticks of dynamite with fuses attached all ready for lighting have been found underneath the Tacoma-Seattle Interurban Railway station. The find caused great excitement owing to the recent explosions at night at near by points, which, however, did no damage. The police think the station was to have been blown up last night.

PASSENGER TRAINS WRECKED.

Kansas City, Kas., Oct. 29.—A Santa Fe passenger train which left here tonight was wrecked at Dean Lake, half way between Bosworth and Marceline, Mo. Seven or eight persons were injured. Mrs. Baden, of Winfield, Kas.; Elmer Harris, of Chicago, and Col. Holland, of the Salvation Army are badly injured. Mrs. Booth Tucker was on the train.

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 29.—President Roosevelt will issue his Thanksgiving Day proclamation on Saturday next, October 31. He will designate Thursday, November 26, as the day of Thanksgiving.

Mrs. P. Swain and Mrs. Grace Kinney, of Indianapolis, mother and niece of Mrs. H. G. Johnson, 719 Clark street, are here on a visit.

THE MARKETS.

WHEAT	HIGH	LOW	CLOS.
Dec.	80 1/2	80	80 1/2
May	79 1/2	79	79 1/2
CORN			
Dec.	41 1/2	41	41 1/2
May	43 1/2	43	43 1/2
OATS			
Dec.	36 1/2	36	36 1/2
May	37 1/2	37	37 1/2
COTTON			
Oct.	10 10	9 96	10 10
Nov.	10 12	10 05	10 12
Dec.	10 25	10 18	10 25
Jan.	10 16	10 09	10 16
Feb.	10 19	10 12	10 19
Mar.	10 24	10 17	10 24
STOCKS			
U. S.	101	100 1/2	101
Am. S. S.	99 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2

QUARTER OF A MILLION LOSS

Paducah Suffers From a Big Blaze in Business Center.

M. Livingston & Co., H. Weil & Son, Michael Bros and Lang Bros, and Hotel Lagomarsino, Principal Sufferers.

Paducah was visited last night by the most disastrous conflagration in her history, in point of loss. There have been more business houses destroyed at one time, but probably never such a heavy loss at one fire as that which threatened for a time early this morning the entire wholesale district of the city and a portion of the retail section. It was the first serious fire to occur in the business part of Paducah since the destruction of Morton's opera house and Ogilvie's, three years ago. Hundreds of people watched the flames eat their way through a corner at Second and Broadway, and threatened to creep back from Second street towards Third. Many remained until the fire was gotten under control about 3 o'clock.

OFFICER DISCOVERS BLAZE.

The blaze was discovered by Merchants' Policeman Pressnell about 10:30 o'clock as he started towards Broadway on Second street near the tobacco warehouse. When he reached Livingston's he saw that there was a big blaze in the rear, and running into Hotel Lagomarsino asked for a phone and said Livingston's was afire. Mr. Lagomarsino sent in an alarm from the box on the corner while the officer telephoned one and the department not knowing that it could not get into Second street from Jefferson because of the paving going on, went down Jefferson and then had to go around and come back up Broadway in order to reach the fire. By this time the blaze had a good start. Chief Wood put his men to work, and soon had a number of extra men working like Trojans at the various streams playing on the fire.

WEIL'S CATCHES FIRE.

There was no checking the intense heat in the big wholesale grocery, and soon it became evident that the Weil Wholesale whiskey house adjoining on the side near Broadway would go. Many barrels of whiskey were rolled out, but none on the upper floors could be removed.

CROWDS INCREASE.

By this time there were hundreds of people about the burning buildings. The top and sides of Paducah's two finest mercantile establishments, Hotel Lagomarsino and Michael Brothers harness manufactory, began smoking ominously, and many wondered why no stream was turned on them. The aerial truck with long ladders might have been used to advantage. It was the general opinion but it was not brought out until both buildings had caught fire and the fire at the Michael building was beyond control.

Hotel Lagomarsino is almost fire proof, and did not catch except in the rear, but the Michael building went like tinder.

LANG BROS. DOOMED.

Meanwhile the stock at Lang Brothers and the equipment in the Western Union office adjoining were being removed. There were two or three explosions in the Michael building which aroused many people who did not know of the fire, and soon a car load of ammunition only recently received by the Messrs. Michael began exploding, and the popping lasted for fully half an hour.

WHOLE BLOCK MENACED.

For a time it looked as if the whole block might go, as a strong wind came up from the east and blew the sparks back on other buildings between Second and Third on Broadway.

By hard work the flames were subdued by the time they reached the Western Union Telegraph office. The fire went no farther down Second street than R. G. Terrell's, next to the Livingston building, and damaged Mr. Terrell's stock only slightly on the third floor.

The losses at Michael Brothers and Livingston's are total. Nothing was saved at Livingston's and very little at Michael's. Mr. Michael thinks he might have saved something on the lower floor had he been able to get help. No one would go into the building and work, he declared.

LIVINGSTON'S LOSS TOTAL.

The loss on the Livingston building will be about \$65,000 on stock, and on the building \$5,000. Much of the stock had just been received. The loss is well covered by insurance.

HOTEL DAMAGED.

Hotel Lagomarsino is damaged considerably, but Mr. Lagomarsino thinks he may be able to resume business in thirty days. His furnishings, including velvet carpets, and the office, are ruined, and his individual loss will be in the neighborhood of \$4,500 or \$5,000. The building proper is damaged probably several thousand dollars. The fine new elevator fell soon after the rear of the building caught, and the greatest damage was in the rooms near the elevator shaft. Fire fell through from the roof, it seems, and set fire to the contents of the cellar.

WEIL LOSS HEAVY.

H. Weil & Sons will probably lose \$20,000 on the stock and \$7,000 on building.

MICHAEL LOSES HEAVIEST.

Michael Brothers will be the heaviest losers. They had a large stock of fine harness on hand, besides the large

stock of hardware and other goods they carried, and the fine machinery. The building cost \$25,000 or more, and Mr. Michael does not think his loss will fall far short of \$100,000.

DAMAGE AT LANG'S.

Lang Brothers by the help of friends got most of their stock out but much of that saved was damaged. Their loss will probably be \$8,000 or \$10,000, and the building is probably damaged \$4,000. The Western Union telegraph office was gutted and water-soaked, and Manager Roper had to transact business from the N. C. and St. L. office. The Postal wires were all burned out but one to Memphis, the big cable carrying the company's wires being partially burned in front of Hotel Lagomarsino.

A HARD FIRE TO FIGHT.

Chief Woods said in regard to the fire that it was one of the hardest he ever saw to fight. He had plenty of water and plenty of pressure but not enough men. The firemen worked hard, and several of them came near being killed in the Michael building. They were in one of the upper stories when fire broke out below them and were forced to slide down the hose through the elevator shaft. They were Firemen Allen and Schumaker, Officer Ed Clark and a colored man named Forest Ellis. The hose was burned. Chief Woods stated that the department lost about 500 feet of hose in the fire.

WHO OWNED BUILDINGS.

The building occupied by Livingston & Co. was owned by them, and that by the Weil firm by Mrs. V. H. Thompson. Captain J. R. Smith owns the hotel building and Michael the building occupied by the Michael firm. The Lang building is owned by the Leber estate and that occupied by the Western Union Telegraph company by Mr. Robert Morley.

The exact amount of loss and insurance cannot be ascertained at present, but the loss is thought to be well covered by insurance. Some of the papers are locked up in the safes, and have not been examined, and it is impossible to learn the exact amount of loss or of insurance.

An insurance man this afternoon furnished the following figures as the amount of insurance carried by the various firms:

Weil stock \$18,000, building \$4,000. Michael stock and building \$80,000. Livingston stock and building \$50,000; had transferred \$7,000 off his building last week to warehouse. Total on building was formerly \$57,000. Lagomarsino total stock \$12,000, building \$12,000. Lang Bros \$3,500 on stock with building covered.

GOOD WATER PRESSURE.

Superintendent Burnett said that the pressure furnished by the water company was the strongest in the history of Paducah. It was pumped directly from the river into the mains, and Chief Wood said it was as much as his men could handle. One or two streams were not as strong as others because of the fact that several hundred feet of hose were used on one or two of them.

WILL REBUILD.

It is supposed that preparations will

be made at once to rebuild the burned structures. It cannot be ascertained until the walls cool how much of the damaged walls can be used again. A great deal of work is ahead, however. It is possible there will be more or less delay in some instances. This will of necessity result from adjustment of losses.

Captain Smith will have repairs started at Hotel Lagomarsino at once. The Messrs. Michael will begin to rebuild as soon as the insurance is settled, and other buildings will likewise be repaired or rebuilt at once.

The Western Union now has a temporary office at the Palmer house. A number of wires of both companies were burned, but the Postal, which is across the street from the hotel, is doing business at the old stand.

MANY SIGHTSEERS OUT.

A large crowd has surrounded the smoking debris all day. From before daylight until press time there had been a large throng inspecting the ruins. The front wall of the Michael building was pulled down about 11:30 and the electric power, which had been shut off for three hours, was turned on again. Partly burned papers, cinders and ashes were blown for many blocks and were found all over the northern part of the city today. Many people, however, did not know there was a fire until morning despite the heavy explosion or two of powder during the fire.

EX MAYOR LANG'S ESCAPE.

Dr. James M. Lang, former mayor, was painfully hurt in the fire and came near being killed. In fact his escape was about as narrow as the average man would care to have in a life time. He had been busy superintending the carrying out of goods from his drug store when the flames began getting pretty close. He went back after some of his books, and while he was near the prescription case the walls fell from behind and he was struck by flying debris. No one knew he was inside, but in a few moments he crawled to the front door, covered with blood and dirt, and a son of Mr. Alonzo Elliott happened to see him and assisted him outside. He said he had been unconscious for a minute or two, and suddenly regained his senses and crawled to the front door. He was assisted up the street, very weak from his injuries and sent to the home of his brother, Dr. Waddie Lang, on North Eighth street, where he is today resting easy. He was cut and bruised and his left leg was broken below the knee, but he will be able, it is thought, to go to his home on West Clay street this evening.

It was learned today that Dr. Lang found when he came to his senses in the burning building that his overcoat was pinned down by the debris and he had to twist around and get out of the garment before he could crawl out.

MEN OUT OF WORK.

A large number of men are thrown out of work by the fire. There are perhaps thirty or forty at Michael's, not including the traveling men and office force. Many of them did not know of the fire until they came down at the usual hour to go to work. Several drummers will be out of jobs owing to the burning of the two wholesale houses.

MANY ON ROOFTOPS.

Many people were on top of the surrounding buildings during the fire assisting in the work of preventing a spread. Several small streams of water from hoses stretched through the hatches were kept continually playing on the roofs and sides of some of the larger buildings until all the danger was passed.

HAD A BARREL.

Some one attempted to roll a barrel of whiskey away and steal it, according to the statement of the firemen who stopped them. Some one was seen to roll a barrel out of Broadway and down towards Washington street on Court. Some one went after the fellow and made him bring the liquor back, agreeing not to prosecute him.

ORIGIN UNKNOWN.

The origin of the fire is unknown. It had gained considerable headway when discovered, and there had been no fire about the building except in the office stove and there was very little in that.

BACK INTO QUARTERS.

THEIR OLD TRICKS

Yeiser Men's Scheme Will Cost Tax Payers Over \$100.

Notices Sent Out For the Purpose of Striking Colored Voters Served by Sheriff.

JUDGE LIGHTFOOT TALKS.

The notices sent out to between 300 and 400 colored voters of Paducah are returnable tomorrow and Saturday in the county court. It is not known exactly how many of the notices have been sent out. The Republican campaign committee has been informed that police officers served some, the sheriff and deputies served some, and others were left under the doors of residences.

Sheriff Potter says that he and deputies served between 300 and 400 of the notices. They were all, it seems, signed by Attorney James Campbell, Jr., whom County Judge Lightfoot apparently authorized to sign them for the county judge. Sheriff Potter was in doubt as to whether or not his duties required him to serve such papers, but he was advised by attorneys that it would be in line with his duties, so he served them.

The whole thing is of course a contemptible scheme of the Yeiser crowd to intimidate and disfranchise colored voters. They hope that out of the three or four hundred voters thus notified to show cause why they should not be disfranchised a large per cent will fail to answer the summons, and their names will then be stricken. They know, or could easily have found out, that very few, if any, of the voters summoned have registered illegally, especially as they had challengers at all the polls on registration day and challenged nearly every colored voter, but they hope to have the names of two or three hundred or more stricken tomorrow and Saturday for failure to answer.

The most amazing feature of the monumental gall exhibited by the Yeiser crowd, is that the service of these notices will have to be paid for by the county—the taxpayers of the entire county. The 1800 or 2000 Republicans and independents in Paducah, as well as all the residents of the county who have no interest in local politics, must pay their proportion of this expense of carrying through a scheme attempted by Mayor Yeiser's campaign managers to defeat the will of the people. The sheriff gets 25 cents each for serving the notices, a total of \$100 or more for the whole lot and the county will have to pay it, according to Sheriff Potter, who was asked this morning on whom the expense falls. Thus Mayor Yeiser's friends, who number 980 according to the recent Democratic primary in Paducah, are trying to make the 5,000 or 6,000 people of McCracken county pay for carrying out a scheme designed solely to put into office a crowd that the people do not want.

The fact that these notices sent out are simply one scheme for intimidating and striking from the registration colored voters, is evidenced by the fact that if every man notified responds, the 300 or 400 cases could not possibly be heard in the three days, Friday, Saturday and Monday, and no lawyer or politician would think for a minute that they could. Each case may bring out four witnesses, two on each side, or possibly eight hundred witnesses to be heard in three days, not counting the motions, arguments and the usual wrangling. It is also very plain that if there was the slightest evidence that these 300 or 400 voters had really registered illegally, they would have been arrested. The only object is to keep as many colored voters as possible from voting.

County Judge R. T. Lightfoot was seen this morning by a reporter and stated that if those who sent out the notices expect the county to pay the sheriff for serving them, they will be very much disappointed. He said he did not give any authority to have anything of the kind done at the expense of the county, and

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